

NSC BRIEFING

8 June 1960

CUBA

- I. In agreeing to visit Cuba Khrushchev is exploiting the Cuban government's hostility to the US and its desire to strengthen Cuban ties with Communist bloc.
 - A. Khrushchev invited on 3 June by Agrarian Reform Institute Director Nunez Jimenez who heads commercial mission to USSR, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Poland.
 - B. Visit may well come 26 July (anniversary date) but Khrushchev probably will seek added invitations from other Latin American governments before setting specific date.
- II. Soviet trade specialists and technicians beginning to arrive in Cuba in sizable numbers, in addition to Czechs, Bulgarians, East Germans and Poles on similar missions.
 - A. Geologists, steel, petroleum, and power specialists in Soviet groups feted by Che Guevara on 1 June.
 - B. Working sessions of eight Cuban-Soviet committees on industrialization "and other matters" began 4 June in Moscow.
- III. Two US (Texaco and Esso) and one British (Shell) oil companies--which account for over 90% of Cuba's refined products--on 6 June advised Cuban government they would not go along with recent government order to begin processing Soviet crude oil.
 - A. Dependents of American employees have been evacuated.
 - B. Cuba will probably take over the refineries with propaganda blast that oil companies acting under US government direction.

OGA review completed

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VI. Castro regime may recognize Peiping at any time and one of few remaining moderate Cuban radio stations broadcast reports that Chou En-lai has also accepted invitation to visit Cuba. (No confirmation of this.)

A. Chou might have been invited by Armed Forces Inspector General Galvez Rodriguez, who received red carpet treatment in Peiping and Hanoi in his current tour of bloc capitals.

B. Chinese Vice Premier received group representing Castro's 26th of July Movement on 3 June, latest of several Cuban labor, government, and student delegations to visit Peiping in recent weeks.

25X1 C. [REDACTED] 30 Cubans now in China for 6-month training course on military strategy and agrarian reform.

VII. Despite Venezuelan President Betancourt's efforts to cancel the visit, Cuban President Dorticos arrived in Caracas on 6 June.

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- A. Dorticos' official reception in Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Peru was cool and correct.
- B. Most Latin American governments irritated by Cuban meddling in their internal politics but hesitate to openly criticize Castro regime because of its popularity among some politically important groups in their countries.
1. Latin American official coolness toward projected conference underdeveloped countries in Havana in September has caused Dorticos to declare publicly that conference not definitely scheduled. He said Cuba "reserves the right to convoke it when...conditions are favorable."

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